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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building—P. O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 273

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

JUNE-JULY, 1966

Montana's Economy Riding High, Wide, Handsome

191,700 on June Payrolls—The Montana economy has been riding high, wide, and handsome this year. Monthly employment totals in non-farm industries so far this year have exceeded comparable months of all past years. The big employment push started to gain momentum in April and carried May and June non-farm employment levels to more record setting totals. The June industrial employment figure, estimated at 191,700 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with the Montana Unemployment Compensation Commission, was the highest single monthly non-farm employment total ever achieved in the state's history. It represented a gain of 6,700 wage earners from the May, 1966 total and was 4,500 more than the number on industrial payrolls in June a year ago. Historically, August is normally the month when industrial employment peaks in the state. This June's employment figure exceeded last year's employment high by 3,400. At that time, August, 1965, 188,300 non-farm workers were employed. With several more good employment months ahead, more job records are bound to be set.

Monthly Employment Gains Wide-spread—Employment gains from May to June were recorded in all eight of the basic industry groups in the Montana economy. Government led the forward march of June employment chalking up a gain of 2,500. Most of the expansion was at the federal level with an increment of 1,800 workers with work forces for the forest service, na-

tional parks, irrigation projects, and other facilities accounting for the bulk of the increase. Employment in state and local governments was up 700 from the May total.

Cash registers of main street trade and service firms had a merry ring as tourism increased and special sales promotions attracted more business. Jobs in service industries were up 1,300 from May to a total of 26,500. The biggest gain was centered in hotels, motels, and resort areas where employment increased by 1,000 workers. Trade firms added 1,000 workers to payrolls during June, with general merchandise firms, cafes, and service stations all sharing in the gains.

Logging and lumbering kept at high capacity, making fast recovery from the spring break-up period which restricts employment in this industry for about six weeks after winter's end. The increased tempo of activity during the past two months created more jobs than there were workers in many logging classifications including timber fallers, cat skimmers, and logging truck drivers. Employment in lumber and timber products was up 400 during June, accounting for most of the 600 increase in all manufacturing employment.

Job Placements Exceed 12,000—A brisk June economy both on the industrial and the farm fronts is reflected in increased job placements by the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service. A total of 12,509 workers were placed on jobs during the month. Job placements in industry

totaled 4,577 while 7,932 workers were entered on jobs in a variety of farm and ranch activities. Industrial job placements were up 16 per cent from last year while the gain in farm jobs exceeded 8 per cent. Industrial employers listed 4,942 new job orders during June, up 16.3 per cent from a year ago. With trade and service volume at high pitch during the heavy tourist season, labor demand in these two industry groups exceeded the supply of experienced workers. Constant shortages of cooks, waitresses, maids, sales clerks, and office workers were evident in most major cities of the state. A total of 1,021 workers were placed in service industries during the month and 990 with trade firms. Job placements in manufacturing industries totaled nearly 700, with about half that number in the lumber and timber products segment. Metal manufacturing, primarily the two copper refineries, took 244 men. Job placements in construction came to 195 as work expanded on existing projects and new work began.

Students Swell Labor Supply—The seasonal influx of student jobseekers began in earnest during June. A total of 7,567 new work applications were taken by local employment offices throughout the state to bring the total jobseeker registration to 12,755 at the end of the month. The count was down about 700 from last year. Some of the young workers were absorbed in seasonal jobs in manufacturing, construction, trade, service, and agriculture.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	May 1966	Apr. 1966	May 1965	May 1966	Apr. 1966	May 1965	May 1966	Apr. 1966	May 1965	May 1966	Apr. 1966	May 1965	May 1966	Apr. 1966	May 1965
All Manufacturing	8.3	6.8	5.0	7.0	5.8	4.3	6.4	4.6	4.1	4.3	3.1	2.4	1.2	.7	.9
Durable Goods	10.0	8.2	6.1	8.6	6.8	5.2	7.8	5.4	4.8	5.7	4.1	2.8	1.0	.4	1.0
Primary Metal	5.5	4.1	2.7	4.8	2.4	2.4	4.8	3.1	1.8	3.0	2.5	1.0	.1	*	*
Nondurable Goods	4.7	4.3	3.0	3.8	3.9	2.7	3.4	3.0	2.9	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.1	.7
All Mining	6.3	4.1	6.9	4.1	2.5	3.9	6.4	7.1	7.8	3.8	3.5	4.1	.1	.5	1.8
Metal Mining	5.4	4.2	6.3	2.3	1.9	1.8	7.2	8.5	5.7	4.2	4.3	3.6	.1	.2	.3

* Less than .05

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for June

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Employment upswing in most basic industry groups adds up to bright economic climate for area. Good hiring trends at smelter account for much of the new employment. Smelter remodeling project employs 200, and should be completed by September. Lack of orders forced closure of concrete products firm, idling 16. Good seasonal job levels in trade and service firms.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Increased construction highlighted labor market activities during the month. Building permits within city limits total \$586,793. New starts included \$350,000 savings and loan firm, \$90,000 medical building, 60 unit apartment house, a motel, wholesale grocery firm, and additions to two high schools. Employment in other industries reveal little change from last year with slight declines in trade and manufacturing noted. Sugar beet thinning in Billings-Hardin area nearing completion. Farm labor supply generally adequate but with some shortages of experienced irrigators.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Industry job placements up 30% from last year with all industry groups recording job gains. Young adults comprised 47% of June job placements. Building and road work in good progress. Work on \$137,000 city street paving contract soon to start. Trade firms enjoying good volume with increased tourism and more local buying power. Logging and mill work at full capacity. Shortage of farm and ranch hands expected.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Job placements exceeded last month by 103 due chiefly to increased hiring in metal mining and smelting. Work force of 130 anticipated when work begins early August on several million dollar expansion project at copper concentrator. Building and highway construction at good pace. No significant change in other industries from last month.

CUT BANK—Over-all economic conditions appear good despite some decline in oil field activities. Heavy registration of youth seeking employment swelled June jobseeker files. Wet weather reduced some farm labor demand; grain crops look good presaging good harvest.

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

	(In Thousands)			May 66	June 65
	June 66	May 66	June 65	June 66	June 66
Civilian Work Force	281.9	262.5	278.6	19.4	3.3
Total Employment	267.9	251.6	263.4	16.3	4.5
Total Non-agricultural Employment	224.0	217.4	219.1	6.6	4.9
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	191.7	185.0	187.2	6.7	4.5
Total Agriculture Employment	43.9	34.2	44.3	9.7	—4
Labor Management Disputes	.1	.*	.2	.1	—1
Total Unemployment	13.9	10.9	15.0	3.0	—1.1
Percent Unemployed	4.9	4.2	5.4	—	—
U. S. Unemployment Rate	—	3.8	5.5	—	—

DILLON—Construction agenda increasing with work soon to start on new super market, \$580,000 college dormitory, \$½ million addition to library, and \$55,000 airport improvement project. Increased activity in mining and milling appears certain. Dry weather and lack of range feed forced some early sale of livestock.

GLASGOW—Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Little change noted in economy of area from year ago; job hires on par with last year with no appreciable gains in any industry group. Impending closure of air base largely responsible for reduced employment activity. Farm labor demand diminished with dry weather and short hay crop.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Industry hiring fell short of last year due to reduced construction and slowdown in oil field work. New junior college and two road contracts comprise main construction activity. Work soon to start on 2,000 foot river bridge. Three recent business closures noted, including two hardware stores and an auto agency.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Generally good economic trends covered most industry groups during June with high levels of activity in construction, manufacturing, and trade. New applications for work hit all time high of 1966, of which 626 were youth. A drop in demand for farm labor is attributed to increased mechanization, and to some extent to cold wet weather earlier which reduced crop growth.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Young jobseekers under 22 comprised 66% of new job applications during the month. Job hires show slight decline in both industry and agriculture from year ago. Little construction activity in area. Sugar beet acreage less than half of last year due to frost damage and lack of moisture. A drop in demand for

farm labor resulted.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Hiring started to subside after heavy job demands of earlier months. About 100 employed on current construction projects with no new major work in sight. Trade and service at good volume as tourism increases. Railroad employment holds steady with only replacement hiring for steel gangs. Harvest of small grains to start late July with no serious labor shortages expected.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Good labor demand existed in most industry groups during the month. Shortages of cooks, waitresses and sales clerks went unchecked. Trade activity expanding to near record levels as tourism increases. Work on \$6 million in building construction includes new hospital, capitol renovation, super market, and three elementary schools. Steady farm labor demand finds occasional worker shortages.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—New job applications up sharply from last year with heavy registration of students and construction workers interested in Libby Dam employment. Tight money reduced home construction idling carpenters, electricians, and laborers. Lumbering and trade provided 60% of June job placements. Farm labor demand extremely light.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Fairly active seasonal trends in construction and trade dominated June labor market highlights. Construction volume down from last year with current projects totaling about \$300,000. Farm labor demand at good seasonal pace.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Positive trends covered most industries during the month. Construction of new high school under way. New bank building half done. More jobs developed in

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	168.3	167.8	169.3	174.2	178.9	187.2	187.3	188.3	187.0	186.8	183.7	181.8	180.0
1966	174.4	173.1	174.4	180.3	185.0	191.7*							

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for June

trade, service, railroads, and logging and lumbering. Various facilities in Yellowstone Park took 250 workers.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Drought conditions on the farm front seriously affecting hay, small grain crops, and pasture lands and forcing some early livestock sales. Reduced consumer buying and less hiring by main street firms noted. Building construction but half last year's volume.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—New work applications increased by 73% from last month as students registered for summer employment. Increased job opportunities for clerical and sales workers noted. Logging and lumber production at high capacity with some shortages of logging classifications. Farm labor demand less than last year due to reduced sugar beet acreage and closure of sugar beet refinery.

POLSON—Good seasonal employment levels evident in most industry groups with most near peak for the year. Logging and lumbering in full swing with some logger shortages at times. Good main street trends. Farm labor demand below year ago due to failure of sugar beet crops.

SHELBY—Reduced worker demand noted in construction, oil field activities and in trade and service. Some upswing in construction expected next month as more work at missile sites gets underway. Wet weather during June slowed farm hiring.

SIDNEY—Lack of new construction work and drought conditions on the farm front showing some effects on local economy. Hiring limited in most industry groups except trade where some increases noted. Hiring for sugar beet fields down 700 from last year.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—A healthy lumber market dominated the economic scene during the month. Minor shortages of experienced woods workers expected to become more serious next two months. Peak employment noted for forest service operations. Clerical and sales jobs scarce but steady trends in service industry groups. Only light farm labor demand.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Employment gains occurred in building and highway construction as existing projects expanded. Oil well drilling activity up slightly with average of 5 rigs on locations. Good job gains in trade and service units including cafes, service stations, hotels, and farm implement firms.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 680 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,168 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	June 1966 (2)	May 1966 (3)	June 1965	May '66 to June '66	June '66 Against June '65
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	191,700	185,000	187,200	6,700	4,500
Manufacturing	23,200	22,600	22,500	600	700
Durable goods	15,400	14,900	14,800	500	600
Lumber and timber products	9,700	9,300	9,300	400	400
Primary metals	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100
Other (4)	2,000	1,900	1,900	100	100
Nondurable goods	7,800	7,700	7,700	100	100
Food and kindred products	4,000	3,900	4,000	100	00
Printing and publishing	1,900	1,900	1,800	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Other (5)	900	900	900	00	00
Mining	7,300	7,200	7,400	100	— 100
Metal mining	4,600	4,600	4,600	00	00
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,200	1,100	1,100	100	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,500	1,500	1,700	00	— 200
Contract Construction	13,200	12,700	14,000	500	— 800
Contractors, building construction	3,600	3,600	2,700	00	900
Contractors, other than building	5,400	5,200	7,400	200	— 2,000
Contractors, special trade	4,200	3,900	3,900	300	300
Transportation and utilities	18,300	17,800	18,100	500	200
Interstate railroads	7,700	7,500	7,800	200	— 100
Transportation except railroads	4,400	4,200	4,100	200	300
Utilities including communication	6,200	6,100	6,200	100	00
Trade	44,600	43,600	43,700	1,000	900
Wholesale trade	9,000	9,100	8,900	— 100	100
Retail trade	35,600	34,500	34,800	1,100	800
General merchandise and apparel	6,500	6,200	6,600	300	— 100
Food stores	6,200	6,200	5,300	00	900
Eating and drinking establishments	9,800	9,100	9,500	700	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,900	6,800	7,200	100	— 300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,200	6,200	6,200	00	00
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,400	7,200	7,200	200	200
Services and miscellaneous	26,500	25,200	26,300	1,300	200
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	4,200	3,200	4,400	1,000	— 200
Personal services	2,000	1,900	2,100	— 100	— 100
Other (6)	20,300	20,100	19,800	400	500
Government	51,200	48,700	48,000	2,500	3,200
Federal	14,200	12,400	13,500	1,800	700
State and local	37,000	36,300	34,500	700	2,500
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,900	22,500	22,500	400	400
Manufacturing	3,200	3,200	3,200	00	00
Contract construction	2,100	2,200	2,400	— 100	— 300
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,000	2,000	100	100
Trade, wholesale and retail	6,000	5,900	5,700	100	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,500	3,700	100	— 100
Government	4,600	4,400	4,200	200	400
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	24,800	24,400	24,900	400	— 100
Manufacturing	2,700	2,600	2,700	100	00
Contract construction	1,700	1,700	1,800	00	— 100
Transportation and Utilities	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,700	7,700	7,800	00	— 100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,600	1,500	1,500	100	100
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,600	4,600	4,600	00	00
Government	4,000	3,900	4,000	100	00

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JUNE 1966 AND JUNE 1965

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers In File				Job Placements								U1 Claims*	
	June 1966		June 1965		June 1966		June 1965		June 1966				June 1965				Wk. 7-1	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1966	1965
Anaconda	273	35	198	6	381	28	443	19	296	7	303	24	199	34	233	12	49	92
Billings	563	205	692	141	1,458	384	1,460	309	532	1,736	2,268	306	539	1,549	2,088	206	471	627
Bozeman	502	71	412	30	229	40	311	43	300	71	371	58	210	72	282	45	42	59
Butte	527	98	685	58	1,089	164	1,427	144	171	12	183	50	308	10	318	21	202	366
Cut Bank	93	16	51	2	272	51	208	23	113	118	231	57	68	116	184	63	64	42
Dillon	80	16	109	33	71	16	95	17	31	71	102	29	39	109	148	49	16	72
Glasgow	141	15	130	3	207	10	299	14	99	21	120	11	99	32	131	20	37	72
Glendive	58	3	108	5	173	6	250	9	49	1,516	1,565	9	60	1,170	1,230	6	29	30
Great Falls	1,066	181	805	87	1,866	166	1,446	152	435	100	535	158	402	122	524	126	282	418
Hamilton	151	8	167	6	224	18	325	22	51	68	119	22	60	110	170	6	29	64
Haavre	148	4	62	5	135	10	150	15	68	96	164	32	91	66	157	26	35	96
Helena	438	66	418	34	641	52	711	64	272	236	508	111	217	451	668	54	76	183
Kalispell	864	106	535	58	1,202	258	900	137	236	4	240	64	256	11	267	52	261	246
Lewistown	117	14	98	7	95	19	144	11	58	87	145	33	60	83	143	22	33	51
Livingston	124	9	72	3	154	9	157	5	329	30	359	35	135	21	156	18	24	37
Miles City	144	17	149	7	243	26	271	19	43	787	830	10	65	726	791	17	37	35
Missoula	1,003	173	800	58	1,364	252	1,716	176	463	207	670	147	383	448	831	116	170	194
Polson	247	19	147	7	337	37	248	24	63	20	83	14	60	47	107	13	40	75
Shelby	78	11	84	7	91	8	149	13	30	90	120	15	60	88	148	34	16	56
Sidney	84	6	110	3	108	9	143	5	53	2,204	2,257	6	76	2,951	3,027	12	28	19
Thom. Falls	46	10	39	7	75	12	111	18	45	5	50	8	73	6	79	10	19	30
Wolf Point	86	8	90	7	141	19	161	17	19	23	42	4	27	24	51	10	50	59
Billings YOC**	631	12	710		1,144	19	1,182		203	214	417	7	94	23	117			
TOTALS	7,504	1,103	6,671	574	11,700	1,613	12,307	1,256	3,959	7,723	11,682	1,210	3,581	8,269	11,850	938	2,010	2,923

*Includes 147 claims of the Fed. UC Program 244 same a year ago. **Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	June (1) 1966	May (2) 1966	June 1965	June (1) 1966	May (2) 1966	June 1965	June (1) 1966	May (2) 1966	June 1965
All Manufacturing	119.02	119.72	117.58	40.9	41.0	42.6	2.91	2.92	2.76
Durable Goods	114.54	118.29	116.85	41.2	41.8	43.6	2.78	2.83	2.68
Primary Metals	116.97	120.77	117.31	40.9	41.5	41.6	2.86	2.91	2.82
Nondurable Goods	128.48	122.77	120.30	39.9	39.1	41.2	3.22	3.14	2.92
Food and Kindred Products	123.83	108.74	109.42	42.7	39.4	44.3	2.90	2.76	2.47
All Mining	124.34	125.45	117.65	39.6	39.7	38.7	3.14	3.16	3.04
Metal Mining	121.34	120.71	110.93	38.4	38.2	35.8	3.16	3.16	3.10
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	118.40	113.87	116.47	40.0	38.6	41.3	2.96	2.95	2.82

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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